

DYG 2-6K

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

National Capital Planning Commission letter to D/OIT

STAT

FROM:

Deputy Chief, Management Group

EXTENSION

NO.



STAT

DATE

10 February 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

STAT

1.

OC/MLS

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Attached is a copy of a letter from the National Capital Planning Commission to the Director of Information Technology confirming our understanding that CIA has not been granted an exemption from the NCPC requirements.

Also attached is a copy of the guidelines as approved on 7 January 1988. The language is the same as published in the Federal Register on 18 November 1987 except in two respects. First, the term satellite antennas has been changed to microwave antennas, and second, a sentence has been added to the bottom of Section G to state that it is the intent of the guidelines to apply to existing antennas moved to a new location and to encourage joint use of antennas.

Please inform us in advance when one of your components plans to install an antenna on Agency or other Federal property so that together we may work with OGC to determine a course of action with respect to NCPC.

If you would like to communicate by AIM, please address your message to

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

In Reply Refer To:
NCPC File No. 84-10

FEB 03 1988

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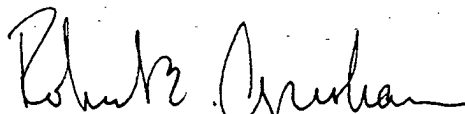
Dear Mr. Maloney:

At its January 7, 1988 meeting, the Commission considered the concerns expressed in your December 24, 1987 letter regarding the security implications of its proposed Guidelines for microwave antenna installations on your agency. Although the Commission did not agree to exempt the CIA from the provisions of the Guidelines, it is sensitive to your security needs and those of certain other Federal agencies. This sensitivity is expressed in the specific submission requirement of the Guidelines that directs Federal agencies to provide a "statement of need--justifying the size of the antenna and other appropriate data regarding the particular installation consistent with security limitations."

The Commission felt this provision would protect the security needs of agencies like the CIA and avoid the exposure of technical aspects of certain telecommunication microwave antennas. The Commission also directed the staff to work with your agency on a case-by-case basis so that security concerns can be identified prior to any CIA submission for the installation of microwave antennas. This procedure should ensure that the security aspects of the installation do not become part of your submission. Nor would they be discussed at the Commission meeting.

I hope this addresses your concerns. A copy of the Guidelines the Commission adopted on January 7, 1988, is enclosed for your information and use.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Gresham
Acting Executive Director

Enclosure

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1325 G STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20576

GUIDELINES AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
FOR MICROWAVE ANTENNAS ON FEDERAL PROPERTY
IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

APPROVED: January 7, 1988

The National Capital Planning Commission finds that certain microwave antennas may adversely impact the aesthetics of the National Capital Region and the health and welfare of its population. Therefore, in order to minimize the visual impacts of microwave antennas on the skyline of the Nation's Capital and on the general appearance of Federal facilities and to protect the public from any potential adverse radio frequency bio-effect impacts from transmitting microwave antennas, the National Capital Planning Commission is providing the following Guidelines and Submission Requirements to be used by Federal agencies in the National Capital Region in the preparation and submission plans for antenna installations. (The National Capital Region includes Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William Counties, and the independent cities within the outer boundaries thereof in Virginia; and the District of Columbia).

A. Prior to the installation of any microwave antenna on Federal property in the National Capital Region, Federal agencies shall submit (pursuant to Section 5 of the National Capital Planning Act of 1952, as amended; Section 5-432, D. C. Code, in the District of Columbia; and as appropriate, Section 4 of the International Center Act of 1968, as amended) all such installation proposals to the National Capital Planning Commission for review and comment. Approval by the NCPC of such installations will be limited to five years. This time period may be increased to 10 years at the NCPC's discretion on sites outside the Monumental Core^{1/} and surrounding lands and designated Historic Districts.

1. Specific Submission Requirements:

- a. A statement of need--justifying the size of the antenna and other appropriate data regarding the particular installation consistent with security limitations.
- b. Site plan and building elevations (for antennas mounted on a building) showing the form, dimensions, and location of the antenna(s).
- c. Construction drawings showing the proposed method of installation.
- d. Description of the texture and color of materials to be used.

^{1/} The Monumental Core is defined in the Federal Facilities element of the "Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital."

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- e. Screening plan--including proposed materials, color and texture for rooftop installations. For ground-level installations also include the number, species, and size of trees or shrubs to be used as a screen.
- f. Site line studies illustrating the extent to which the proposed antenna(s) will be visible from the surrounding streets and public open spaces. These studies should include all alternatives considered.
- g. A review of alternatives considered to meet the telecommunication needs of the agency.

2. General Criteria Applying to Antenna Installations:

- a. No rooftop microwave antenna in the National Capital Region should exceed the height of the roof of any permitted penthouses on Federal buildings.
- b. Materials used in the construction of antennas and their mountings should not be bright, shiny, or reflective and should be of a color that blends with the surrounding building materials.
- c. Any masts or towers should be non-combustible, corrosion resistant, and protected against electrolytic action.
- d. All antennas should be adequately grounded to protect against a direct lightning strike.

B. Federal agencies may request an extension of the approval prior to expiration of the original approval. The request should be accompanied by a certification that:

- 1. The original installation is structurally sound and continues to meet all the submission requirements;
- 2. Clearly establishes the continued need for the installation;
- 3. Technological advances have not offered any alternatives that permit the elimination of the antenna or reduction in its size to minimize the visual impacts.
- 4. Any antenna installation which does not received re-certification by the NCPC should be dismantled and removed as soon as possible after the expiration of the NCPC's approval period.

C. To the extent possible, Federal agencies should anticipate the need for antennas on all new buildings and design such buildings in such a fashion as to screen the needed antennas in a manner appropriate to the design of each building.

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D. Rooftop antennas on existing Federal buildings or ground-level installations in the National Capital Region should be designed and installed in a manner that minimizes or eliminates their visual impacts on adjacent properties or public rights-of-way. Where appropriate to the character of a building, retro-fitting to screen antennas not accommodated in original building designs and plans should be considered. Various architectural solutions are possible for retro-fitting buildings to screen antenna installations. The architectural style, orientation, available rooftop space, and structural character of a building, as well as the heights of neighboring buildings, are all important considerations in the retro-fit option selected. A variety of materials, including plastic, fiberglass, and glass can be used to screen or obscure antennas. Any materials that do not block the passage of the radio frequency signals are suitable as a screen.

E. Reasonable precautions are necessary in locating and operating transmitting microwave antennas, because of potential adverse radio frequency bio-effects. In light of the numerous variables regarding power and frequency levels for each installation, electromagnetic radiation impacts will have to be evaluated on a site specific basis. All submissions to the NCPC for a transmitting microwave antenna should be accompanied by an environmental assessment. The environmental assessment shall include, among other considerations, an estimate of the electromagnetic radiation levels at 10, 50, 100, 500, 1,000 and 2,000 feet from the installation in milliwatts/centimeters squared and the safeguards proposed to protect the public from any potential adverse bio-effects. A manufacturers certification as to electromagnetic radiation at the above distances and a statement that the proposed antenna meets all American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) current radio frequency emission standards should be made part of the environmental assessment. The NCPC will continue to seek state-of-the-art information on health and human safety issues and shall apply that information and resulting awareness of issues in reviewing and approving antenna installations.

F. All agencies responsible for antenna installations existing at the time of the adoption of these Guidelines are required to apply for approval of all such installations within five years after the adoption of these Guidelines and Submission Requirements.

G. These Guidelines are general in nature and convey the spirit of the concerns regarding potential adverse visual and/or bio-effect impacts to be mitigated. Each installation is a special case and the appropriateness of the solutions selected to reduce the visual impacts will, in a large measure, be determined by the particular location or locations chosen for the installation and the architectural character of the building. These Guidelines provide general criteria to be applied on a case-by-case basis. It is the intent of these Guidelines to: (a) apply to any existing microwave antenna(s) which are moved or relocated to another location on the Federal facility and (b) to encourage the joint use of microwave antennas wherever possible.

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H. The NCPC will, in its review of proposals for microwave antenna installations, be particularly concerned with the agency's statement of need, justification of antenna size, and measures employed to minimize the visual impacts of the proposed installation. The NCPC will continue to review all satellite and terrestrial microwave antenna proposals, on a case-by-case basis, as a modification to previously approved site and building plans.